

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
INTER-OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Date: May 9, 2002
To: Parwez Alam, County Administrator
From: Tom Waits, Chairman, Leon County Tourist Development Council
Subject: TDC Executive Director Position

This is to request that the County's selection process for the vacant TDC Executive Director position be formally closed. Advertisement of the position was conducted on two separate occasions. Both of these advertisements attracted over twenty applicants.

The selection committee members consisted of:

X	Tom Waits, Chairman, TDC	Ed DePuy, County Commissioner
X	Parwez Alam, County Administrator	Sue Dick, Chamber/EDC
X	Michelle Wilson, TDC	Mickey Brady, TDC
X	Pace Allen, TACVB	

The selection committee initially interviewed a total of four applicants. Two other applicants were offered interviews but declined. Upon closing out the interviews, Mr. Scott Whitehead was chosen as the top candidate for consideration in filling the TDC Executive Director position. Mr. Whitehead was offered the position, however, after more than two weeks of discussions and negotiations, he declined the offer for personal reasons. The selection committee could not find a satisfactory second choice from the initial applicant pool and recommended that the formal hiring process be closed to consider other options.

It is important to note that in its effort the committee sought to select a candidate best suited to team with, preserve and build on the strengths of the existing executive professionals who serve in present TDC sponsored programs (CVB and Sports Council). The committee felt the uniqueness of this need (for a newly defined position) to be of prime importance. With this consideration, it was unable to attract a satisfactory applicant meeting this component of the selection criteria. However, as an option, the committee did identify and interview applicants from within county government who were ready and willing to serve in this position.

One such option was to consider Mr. Guy Thompson, a county employee and aide to Commissioner Tony Grippa for the position. Mr. Thompson expressed an interest in the position and the selection committee interviewed him for consideration. The committee felt that with Mr. Thompson's background and experience he met the aforementioned criteria. As such, we are recommending him for the TDC Executive Director position. It is clearly understood by all parties that Mr. Thompson's progress will be reviewed after a six-month probationary period.

Since Mr. Thompson is currently a county employee, he will be transferred and promoted into the TDC Executive Director position with County approval. The starting salary for Mr. Thompson will be at the minimum of paygrade 60, which is \$54,408.67 annually. Mr. Thompson will begin on a half-day basis on Tuesday, May 14, and will move to full time a week thereafter. The effective date of the transfer is to be determined in accordance with county government policy.

The selection committee believes Mr. Thompson will be an asset to the Tourist Development Council's effort to enhance Leon County's tourism economy. Please contact me at 224-2888 if you have any questions.

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cc: Board of County Commissioners
TDC Selection Committee Members
✓ Guy Thompson

